

LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

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P R O C E E D I N G S

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, September 28, 1976

10:00 o'clock a.m.

DOYLE G. BERRY,  
Chairman

Wild Life and Fisheries  
Building, Room 102  
400 Royal Street  
New Orleans, LA 70130

Kathryn G. Chamberlin,  
Reporter



Helen R. Dietrich, Inc.  
*Stenotypists*

333 ST. CHARLES AVENUE, SUITE 1221  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70130 • (504) 524-4787

. . . The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission convened at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on Tuesday, September 28, 1976, at the Wild Life and Fisheries Building, Room 102, New Orleans, Louisiana, Doyle G. Berry, Chairman, presiding. .

PRESENT WERE:

DOYLE G. BERRY, Chairman

HARVEY C. LUTTRELL, Vice Chairman

MARC DUPUY, JR., Member

JERRY JONES, Member

JEAN LAPEYRE, Member

JIMMIE THOMPSON, Member

DONALD F. WILLE, Member

J. BURTON ANGELLE, Secretary.

A G E N D A

DR. LYLE ST. AMANT

1. Request from T. L. James & Company, Inc. (7)

for renewal of permit to remove fill material from the Mississippi River between Miles 116 and 117 AHP, opposite Levee Stations 5896 and 6008, in the Pontchartrain Levee District,



St. Charles Parish.

2. Renewal of clam and reef shell permit (8)  
requested by W. T. Burton Company, Inc.  
in Sabine Lake.
3. Harless Incorporated requests permit to (10)  
remove sand and fill material from the  
Calcasieu River near Lake Charles,  
Calcasieu Parish.
4. Request from Vicon, Inc., for a permit to (12)  
remove sand fill from the Mississippi  
River at Hahnville, Jefferson Parish.
5. Request from B & B Tug Corporation for permit (13)  
to dredge approximately 75,000 cubic  
yards of fill material from Bayou  
Lafourche near Leeville.
6. Request from T. L. James & Company, Inc. for (15)  
renewal of permit expiring September 28,  
1976, for dredging of sand fill material  
from the Mississippi River between  
Mile 86.8 and Mile 87.35 AHP, near  
Meraux, St. Bernard Parish.
7. Request for renewal of permit by T. L. James (16)  
and Company, Inc., for removing sand,



gravel or fill material from the  
Mississippi River between Miles 102 AHP  
to Mile 103.5 AHP.

MR. RICHARD YANCEY

8. Request Mineral Board to readvertise two (18)  
tracts on Ouachita Wildlife Management  
Area.

9. Cameron-Creole Watershed permit application. (21)

MR. JOE HERRING

10. Field trial request for Cities Service Wild- (35)  
life Management Area.

OTHER BUSINESS

11. Mr. Ray Robinson representing Louisiana (38)  
Coastal Resources Association.

12. District Attorney Norval Rhodes, Terrebonne (38)  
Parish.

13. Mr. Don Cooper representing Louisiana Bird (54)  
and Quail Hunters Association, Baton  
Rouge.

14. Adoption of Rules and Procedures to conduct (87)  
Hearing on Appeal on Section 26 of the  
Guideline and Procedures for Administra-  
tion for Natural and Scenic Rivers



System Act.

15. Set Date for October meeting. (87)

Note: The following items of business not on  
the printed agenda were also considered:

Approval of minutes of previous meeting. (5)

Announcement of appointment of new Secretary (6)  
of the Commission.

Request to Mineral Board re rules for (20)  
development of minerals on State Wild-  
life Refuge.

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P R O C E E D I N G S

CHAIRMAN DOYLE G. BERRY: Good morning,  
ladies and gentlemen. The meeting will now come  
to order.

I don't see anything on here for the  
approval of the minutes of the last meeting.  
Don't we usually do that?

MR. THOMPSON: I so move.

MR. JONES: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Thompson,  
seconded by Mr. Jones. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?



(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: So ordered.

Dr. St. Amant.

Excuse me first, Doc. I would like to make an announcement that the Governor in his illustrious wisdom has appointed us a new Secretary of the Wild Life and Fisheries, Mr. Burt Angelle. Congratulations, Burt.

SECRETARY ANGELLE: Thank you.

MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman, I understand that that position is sort of modeled after what is in Washington, at the cabinet level and all that, and last night I went out and I found something I think would be appropriate that he keep with him. I would like to give it to him -- a roll of red tape, with some scissors. Cut a little piece for Mr. Yancey and a little piece for Dr. St. Amant!

(Laughter and applause)

Now you notice how much he kept for himself and how much he gave them!

THE CHAIRMAN: I see we have our illustrious District Attorney from Houma with us. Glad



to have you with us this morning.

Dr. St. Amant.

DR. LYLE S. ST. AMANT: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, we have seven items dealing with permits. I will go through them in order.

The first one is a request by T. L. James for renewal of an existing permit which has been operating satisfactorily in the Mississippi River at Mile 116. I would recommend that this permit be renewed for one year at the standard price of five cents per cubic yard.

MR. THOMPSON: I so move.

MR. WILLE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Wille. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)



BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to T. L. James and Company, Inc. to remove fill material from the Mississippi River between Miles 116 and 117 AHP opposite Levee Stations 5896 and 6008, in St. Charles Parish, the Pontchartrain Levee District, for a period of one year from September 30, 1976 to September 30, 1977, at a royalty rate of five cents per cubic yard.

DR. ST. AMANT: Item 2 is a renewal of an existing permit for the dredging of clam and reef shell in Sabine Lake by W. T. Burton, Inc. This permit operates on an annual basis. It has been operating for a number of years satisfactorily. I would recommend that the permit be renewed at the standard royalty of 20 cents per cubic yard.

MR. JONES: I so move.

MR. LUTTRELL: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Jones,





seconded by Mr. Luttrell. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the  
resolution is here made  
a part of the record.)

WHEREAS W. T. Burton Company,  
INC. requests renewal of their permit  
to dredge for clam and reef shell from  
Sabine Lake, and

WHEREAS dredging in this lake  
has been permitted under agreement with  
the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission  
for a number of years without affecting  
the ecology of the lake, and

WHEREAS permits are granted  
on an annual basis so that any changes  
in the lake may be detected and the  
dredging terminated if necessary,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED  
that the Wild Life and Fisheries



Commission grants to the W. T. Burton Company a permit to dredge clam and reef shell from Sabine Lake effective September 28, 1976, and terminating September 28, 1977; and that this permit requires the various clauses and restrictions set forth in previous permits and that a royalty of twenty cents per cubic yard be paid on all shell removed from the lake.

DR. ST. AMANT: Item 3 is a request by Harless Incorporated of Lake Charles, Louisiana, to dredge fill material in the Calcasieu River north of Lake Charles and above the salt water barrier. We have examined this permit and while the actual dredging portion meets with the requirements set forth by this Commission, there are some concerns that dredging in low water stages may cause turbidity problems which would conflict with the recreational fishing interests and other uses of the river.

We recommend that a permit be granted with restrictions that no dredging shall occur



-- or let me put it another way -- dredging shall be allowed from the month of November through the month of March during periods when the river is at a high stage. There will be no dredging in the summer months when the river is low.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation.

MR. WILLE: So move.

MR. JONES: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Wille, seconded by Mr. Jones. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to Harless Incorporated for the dredging of sand and/or fill



material from the Calcasieu River above Lake Charles but the permit is granted subject to the following restrictions:

- (1) Dredging will occur only during winter months beginning November 1 and ending March 31 of each succeeding year.
- (2) Dredging will cease at any time during this period if turbidity in the river drops to a point where it can be successfully used for recreational purposes.

DR. ST. AMANT: Item 4 is a request by Vicon, Inc. for a permit to remove sand fill material from the Mississippi River at Hahnville, Louisiana. This permit has been examined and meets the requirements set forth by the Commission. I would recommend that the permit be granted for a period of one year at five cents per cubic yard.

MR. WILLE: I so move.

MR. LAPEYRE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Wille and



seconded by Mr. Lapeyre. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(The full text of the  
resolution is here made  
a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the  
Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries  
Commission does hereby grant per-  
mission to Vicon, Inc. to dredge fill  
material from the Mississippi River  
at Hahnville, Jefferson Parish,  
Louisiana, for a period of one year  
from September 28, 1976 to September 28,  
1977, at a royalty rate of five cents  
per cubic yard.

DR. ST. AMANT: No. 5 is a request by  
B & B Tug Corporation for permit to dredge approx-  
imately 75,000 cubic yards of fill material from  
Bayou Lafourche near Leeville. This is in front  
of the B & B Tug yard where they operate and build



these tugs. I would recommend that this permit be granted for a period of one year at five cents or until the 75,000 cubic yards is dredged if it is less than one year.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation.

MR. LAPEYRE: I so move.

MR. WILLE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Lapeyre and seconded by Mr. Wille. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to B & B Tug Corporation to dredge approximately 75,000 cubic yards of fill material from Bayou Lafourche near



Leeville, Lafourche Parish, Louisiana, for a period of one year from September 28, 1976 to September 28, 1977, at a royalty rate of five cents per cubic yard.

DR. ST. AMANT: Item 6 is a request from T. L. James & Company for renewal of an existing permit at Mile 86.8 in the Mississippi River for the dredging of sand and fill material. This permit has been active and has met the requirements set forth by the Commission. I would recommend that we renew it for a period of one year at five cents.

MR. DUPUY: I so move.

MR. THOMPSON: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made



a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to T. L. James & Company, Inc. to remove sand and/or fill material from the Mississippi River between Mile 86.8 and Mile 87.35 AHP, near Meraux, St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana, for a period of one year from September 28, 1976 to September 28, 1977, at a royalty rate of five cents per cubic yard.

DR. ST. AMANT: The final item that I have is a request for renewal, another request for renewal by T. L. James & Company, Inc. for the removal of sand or fill from the Mississippi River between Miles 102 and 103 AHP. This permit has been operating satisfactorily and I would recommend that it be renewed for a period of one year at five cents per yard.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. Do we have a motion?





MR. DUPUY: I will move.

MR. THOMPSON: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Dupuy,  
seconded by Mr. Thompson. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(The full text of the  
resolution is here made  
a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the  
Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries  
Commission does hereby grant permis-  
sion to T. L. James and Company, Inc.  
to remove sand, gravel or fill material  
from the Mississippi River between  
Miles 102 AHP to Mile 103.5 AHP,  
renewing permit that expires  
September 30, 1976, for a period of  
one year until September 30, 1977.

DR. ST. AMANT: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Dr. St. Amant.



Let's see, I believe Mr. Yancey is next.

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission, on September 8 the Mineral Board opened bids on two Commission-owned tracts in the Ouachita Wildlife Management Area just south of Monroe. The bonus offered on one of these tracts was \$22 an acre. The bonus offered on the other tract was only \$26 an acre. Consequently, the bids were rejected as inadequate consideration being offered.

However, the Mineral Board feels that there is considerable interest in mineral development up there and they propose to readvertise these two tracts at the November lease sale, and we would recommend that the Commission approve of these two tracts being readvertised. They said they would need a resolution from the Board before they would do that.

MR. DUPUY: I so move.

MR. LUTTRELL: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Dupuy, seconded by Mr. Luttrell. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.



THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(The full text of the  
resolution is here made  
a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the State Mineral  
Board opened bids on two tracts  
located on the Ouachita Wildlife  
Management Area on September 8th, and

WHEREAS, the bonus on one  
tract amounted to \$22.00 per acre and  
\$26.00 per acre on another, and

WHEREAS, the State Mineral  
Board rejected these bids due to  
inadequate consideration,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED  
that the Louisiana Wild Life and  
Fisheries Commission does hereby  
request the State Mineral Board to  
readvertise these two tracts at the  
November lease sale incorporating  
the rules and regulations previously



agreed to as a means of minimizing damages to wildlife habitat on the area in the event of future mineral operations.

MR. JONES: I have a question involving the Mineral Board. About a year ago we requested the Mineral Board to get together to determine the rules under which we would develop the minerals on State Wildlife Refuge. Thereafter a seismic permit was granted by the Mineral Board for that refuge but we still have not developed the rules under which we would permit drilling on the refuge.

I don't know what stage the seismic operations are in, but sufficient time has now elapsed for the Mineral Board to get together with us and determine those rules.

I would like to move that we request the Mineral Board to invoke a meeting of our joint committee to study those rules.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the motion. Do I have a second?

MR. THOMPSON: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Thompson.



All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

MR. YANCEY: This next item on the agenda pertains to the 67,000-acre marshland tract that lies immediately adjacent to the eastern shore of Calcasieu Lake.

What is happening in this marsh in here east of Calcasieu Lake, originally the old Calcasieu River had a depth of 12 feet and a width of about 200 feet. Consequently, tidal exchanges were minimal in Calcasieu Lake. However, in the past 20 to 25 years the ship channel has been dredged out to a depth of 40 feet and to a width of 400 feet and this has resulted in immediate changes in tidal action in Calcasieu Lake with every change in the Gulf.

The tidal action and salinity has doubled and tripled in Calcasieu Lake. It has resulted in salt water moving into the marshes east of the lake and causing these salt scalds.



All of this colored area, the red and the blue areas (indicating on map) are now big shallow water muddy lakes where they were formerly vegetated.

Back in 1953 only five percent of this area was in bayous and lakes and open water, and in 1974, based on this information that we gathered from aerial photographs, now 25 percent of the area is in open water. The salinities have tripled. We are now finding salinities at about the 22,000 parts per million level in the Creole area. Up in the Sabine-Uvalde area it is running around six, seven, eight thousand parts per million.

As this salt water moves in and hits this fresh marsh vegetation it kills it, the root systems die, and that is what is holding the marsh together, and as the plants die then we get a scouring action and it is resulting in these large open shallow salty lakes.

The proposal to correct this situation is to construct a levee up the eastern shore of Calcasieu Lake with about five water control



structures, which would be used to reduce tidal action into the marshes and stabilize salinity. The structures are designed so that there would be no possibility of them being used for drainage purposes out of the marsh. Also, the control structures would be in the hands of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service people that work on the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge.

We feel that corrective action is needed and the Corps of Engineers has been sitting on the request to issue the permit now for three years. During this time additional acreages of marshes have been lost. They are considering issuance of the permit now at the Washington level. We have prepared a letter, recommending that they issue the permit so that the work can proceed and the marsh restoration process can be initiated. We think it will take 20 to 30 years to bring this marsh back to its former productiveness but we think we are wasting time and some action should be taken. We have prepared the letter to the Corps requesting that they issue the permit and in the letter we have included what we feel is



sound justification and reasons for issuance of the permit. We would like for the Commission to approve of the letter going on to the Corps of Engineers.

Now the Commission has already adopted a position back in '72 favoring this project, marsh restoration project. The Corps has never issued the permit so consequently nothing has been done. We have a general deterioration of the marshes taking place out there now and we think that some action should be taken.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation.

MR. DUPUY: Dick, is it proper that the control of the water control structures be in the Fish and Wildlife Service? Are there not other lands that are affected by this, in addition to the Sabine Wildlife Management Area?

MR. YANCEY: The principal structures are located on the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge. They naturally would be the ones best suited to operate the structure, in our opinion. You have got to have coordination I think of all your





structures. If you have somebody in charge of two of them, they may want to open them, and somebody else down here in charge of two more feels that they should be closed, then you are certain to run into problems.

MR. JONES: This was part of a joint plan that was worked out by everyone including the Fish and Wildlife Service; the major structure is the one on the Refuge and the others are all fixed wiers, and the canal is on the inside, so the real regulation of water salinities and water levels will be by that main structure.

MR. YANCEY: One other comment. The Fish and Wildlife Service worked closely with our people in having the original plan modified so it would overcome the objections of certain people to the project. They were concerned about the ingress and egress of marine life out of the lake into the marshes being restricted, and this was taken into consideration in the design of the structure, so we feel that that problem has been resolved.

THE CHAIRMAN: You mean the U. S. Fish and Wildlife actually worked with you one time?



MR. YANCEY: They worked with us very closely on this project. They own 130,000 acres of land there and their interest is directly at stake and their personnel on the ground as far as we know are 100 percent for this project. As a matter of fact, the same problem is occurring on the west side of Calcasieu Lake and we understand now that they are proposing a project over there.

MR. JONES: I so move.

MR. DUPUY: I will second it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Dupuy. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the U. S. Corps of Engineers is presently considering the issuance of a permit to Gravity Drainage



District #3 of Cameron Parish for the construction of a levee and water control structure along the eastern shoreline of Calcasieu Lake, and

WHEREAS, substantial deterioration has occurred in recent years in the 67,000 marshland tract lying east of Calcasieu Lake as a result of increased salinity and tidal action from the widening and deepening of the Calcasieu Ship Channel, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby approve of the following letter to be forwarded to the Corps of Engineers which outlines the problems and the need for the issuance of a permit for the construction of the levee and five water control structures in order that the marsh can be restored east



of Calcasieu Lake under a water management program.

(Text of letter  
referred to above  
is here made a  
part of the record.)

September 23, 1976

Colonel Early J. Rush III

District Engineer

U. S. Army Engineer District, New Orleans

Post Office Box 60267

New Orleans, Louisiana 70160

Re: Public Notice

LMNOD-Sp (Calcasieu Lake) 382

Dear Colonel Rush;

The Louisiana Wild Life and  
Fisheries Commission has recently  
received the public notice concerning  
the application by Gravity Drainage  
District No. 3 of the Parish of Cameron  
requesting a permit to authorize the  
construction of a levee, control structures,  
and channels near Calcasieu Lake,



Cameron Parish, Louisiana. As you know, our agency has long been aware of the problems of marsh deterioration in this particular area and have recognized the need for constructing certain water control structures that would minimize or alleviate the problems of salt water intrusion in the marshes adjacent to the eastern edge of Calcasieu Lake. You will recall that this Commission gave a favorable position statement on December 20, 1972 regarding an earlier request by Gravity Drainage District No. 3 for a permit in connection with the Cameron-Creole Watershed Project. We are pleased to see that corrective construction measures are once again being considered.

This serious problem was brought about by the construction of the Calcasieu Ship Channel in the early 1940's. Progressive enlargement and deepening of this channel has



accelerated tidal action and the introduction of more saline waters into the historically transitional marshes of this region. Information supplied in a recent Corps of Engineers letter informs us that "as a result of this project, the tidal range doubled and peak salinities at the lower end of Calcasieu River near Cameron more than doubled from an average of 10,000 parts per million to 23,600 parts per million." These drastic changes have brought about shoreline erosion, rapid loss of high quality marsh vegetation, conversion of marshes to shallow, muddy, saline lakes, and the scouring of bayous and marsh ponds. Immediate corrective action is needed. Further delays will result in continued conversion of the tract to a much less productive area for marine fisheries as well as fur-bearers, migratory waterfowl, alligators and many other forms of wildlife. The implementation of a water control system



will make it possible to begin a gradual restoration process. This process may take 20 to 30 years to fully recover from the damage already caused to these wetlands. Additional delays in effecting sound water management programs will result only in greater damages to these marshes.

More specifically, changes in the marshes have been characterized by a dramatic vegetative change with a subsequent breakdown and loss of the humus floor of the exposed marshes. Before the more saline-tolerant species of vegetation can become established and propagate on these barren areas, the marsh floor is scoured by increased tidal action, resulting in open mud flats. With this process, comes the steady loss and annual breakdown of marsh plant communities, subsequent loss of organic deposition and finally productivity. True, for a short period with increased



deterioration and more available marine habitat, increased fisheries production could be experienced. However, when the carrying capacity of these estuaries is exceeded because of this increased production, the fisheries would diminish to a dangerously low level, possibly never to return.

In order to more accurately explain and quantify the rapid rate of change occurring, we have plotted the progressive deterioration of the 67,000-acre wetland area east of Calcasieu Lake. Early maps of this area in 1953 showed that approximately 3,500 acres or about five percent of the total area was in open water. By 1968, aerial photographs showed an additional 9,200 acres of open water. Subsequent aerial photographs taken in 1974 revealed that 4,000 more acres of marsh had scalded and changed to open water, bringing the total loss of marsh vegetation in





this wetland system to approximately 16,800 acres, or 25 percent of the total area. The attached color coded map delineates the chronology of this marsh deterioration.

Louisiana has maintained a marine fisheries profile through the years simply because of its transitional marshland make-up. One only needs to examine the remaining coastal areas of our nation to realize that high productivity is experienced only in those areas where this situation exists. Consequently, it is imperative that this system be maintained or stabilized.

Our findings indicate that water control structures along the proposed levee system could significantly reduce or minimize the anticipated marsh deterioration. Operation of these structures would be the responsibility of personnel of the Department of the Interior located



at the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge. This would provide close supervision and allow these water control features to be operated in a manner that would maintain ingress and egress of marine organisms at an acceptable rate.

Because of the local and international importance of these marshes, our agency has devoted a considerable amount of time and expense in considering the plan for solving the problem of marsh deterioration. Those formulating these comments on my staff include Mr. Richard Yancey, Assistant Director, Mr. Charles White, marine biologist in charge of Southwestern Louisiana marine fishery operations, and Mr. Dan Dennett, our environmental coordinator. Therefore, we feel that a just and reasonable determination has been made. Therefore, in order to prevent additional damages from salt water intrusion, wetland deterioration with the



accompanying loss of fish and wildlife habitat, we strongly feel that this permit should be issued and urge you to consider our foregoing justification for this action.

We very much appreciate the opportunity to comment on this proposed project and hope that our comments will be used to serve fish and wildlife interests in this area in the best possible way.

Sincerely yours,  
/s/ J. Burton Angelle  
J. Burton Angelle  
Director.

THE CHAIRMAN: Joe.

MR. JOE HERRING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last month at the Commission meeting I recommended to the Commission that the Russell Sage Wildlife Management Area be opened for a one-night raccoon hunt field trial, which was October 9, 1976, to be held by the United Kennel Club.



When Mr. Riley Laffoon made this request to the Commission, he included Russell Sage and Cities Service Wildlife Management Areas to be included, because they are close together and the field trials could work on both areas and spread the people out a little bit. I overlooked recommending Cities Service at that time, so I would like to come back to the Commission now and recommend Cities Service be included there and that they could have their field trials on October 9, 1976.

The reason, these areas are open for raccoon hunting on a special basis but not on that particular night. Normally the United Kennel Club and others plan their field trials when the areas are open but this time they were unable to get the sanction of the clubs and everything on the nights that we had it open and having it earlier, so I would like to recommend to the Commission that we permit that then.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation.

MR. WILLE: I move.



MR. DUPUY: I will second it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Wille,  
seconded by Mr. Dupuy. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the  
resolution is here  
made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, Mr. Riley Laffoon,  
representing the United Kennel Club,  
requested the use of Russell Sage and  
Cities Service Wildlife Management  
Areas for one night, October 9, 1976,  
for a license raccoon hunt trial, and

WHEREAS, the Cities Service  
Wildlife Management Area was over-  
looked in making recommendations, and

WHEREAS, the United Kennel  
Club is a reputable hunting organiza-  
tion, and

WHEREAS, this organization



was unable to schedule this event during the regular hunting period on Russell Sage and Cities Service Wildlife Management Areas, and

WHEREAS, no guns will be used on the area during this field trial and there should be no interference with other activities,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission grant the United Kennel Club, through Mr. Riley Laffoon, their request to hold field trials on the Russell Sage and Cities Service Wildlife Management Areas for one night, October 9, 1976. Permits for this field trial will be issued through the District II office.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Joe. Under Other Business we have Mr. Ray Robinson. I don't see him this morning.

We will call our District Attorney up from Terrebonne Parish, who has done a good job



over there for Wild Life and Fisheries. After all these years we are finally getting a few cases prosecuted over there. We are proud of you.

MR. NORVAL RHODES: Good morning, gentlemen. I have a couple of problems in my parish that I would like to discuss with you this morning. I will be very brief because I have a bunch of stuff back in Houma I have got to take care of.

Since I have been in office, Terrebonne Parish has had four agents in the parish, two in enforcement and I think you have two in water pollution and the shrimping and oyster business. We probably have the largest land mass --

THE CHAIRMAN: Excuse me. Where is the Director? Is the Director in there?

MR. JONES: He can't be doing any business because he left his tape here! (Laughter)

THE CHAIRMAN: He sure did. Just a minute. I want the Director to hear this.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Thank you. I am sorry for the delay.

MR. RHODES: Burt, I was telling them that as far as I know, and I think my information



is reasonably accurate, I have three gentlemen that are Wild Life and Fisheries agents in the enforcement division in I think the largest parish in the state, in addition to the only parish that has as much water area as we have to cover. The enforcement department has done I think an excellent job. The caseloads should represent exactly what I am saying. They also make arrests regardless of name.

I would like to ask you gentlemen to first see that Mr. Guidry, who is an agent in Terrebonne Parish, is furnished with a boat and a truck. There is no way he can work without them. I don't know if you are aware of it, but his truck and boat were both totalled out in a wreck about a month ago.

I have taken as much initiative as I can through Joe Burris -- I am sure you all know him -- but out of my criminal courts fund I am allowed to spend money for anything that I think is enforcement and a necessary part of my office, and along that line we recently got a federal grant for a night star light. I don't know if





you are familiar with it, but it is at the disposal -- it is some \$3,000 piece of equipment that the agents have access to, to work for bulleyes and things such as that. It is a very sophisticated piece of equipment and in addition to the star light it has a camera attachment, which makes my work a lot easier in the courtroom.

I have also furnished all of the agents in enforcement in my parish with CB radios. With the advent of the scanner it is practically impossible for them to talk to one another without somebody hearing it, so we have what is known as a shaved crystal on a CB set and no one else can hear them. They have their own frequencies on CB and this was furnished through my office.

The only reason that I want you to know that I have done as much as I feel like I can do and not have Mr. Burris climbing me for spending too much of the taxpayers' money.

I would like to see, especially now with the opening of all the wildlife seasons, some help from the Board along the lines of new equipment, particularly for the agents that don't have any



whatsoever, and there is one right now completely out of pocket, and some binoculars if you can furnish them, any type of equipment that will aid them out in the field. I realize you have the same money problems I have, but anything you can do, and I am not going to bother you again. I won't take your time but I would like for you to help us, down in Terrebonne Parish.

As most of you know, we had a preserve for deer that was closed for some five years in Terrebonne Parish, and Doyle can bear witness to the fact that it worked. We have a tremendous deer population, and if we can't keep the night hunters out of there, it is going to go back in the same rut it was in before.

I simply ask that you try, if finances allow, to give these people a hand down there.

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Rhodes. We appreciate you appearing before us this morning and I am sure the Director and Chief will take note of what you said. We certainly appreciate the effort you are making to help clean that



parish up down there and restore it to the condition it should be in.

MR. LAPEYRE: I would like to express my appreciation to the District Attorney for the efforts he has made, which he has pointed out here, and I assure you that I will work with you and with the Director to see what we can do.

THE CHAIRMAN: And I would assume that if the Director, the new Secretary, and Chief, want to keep riding around through Terrebonne Parish, they had better get something done, hadn't they? (Laughter)

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Mr. Chairman, in behalf of the staff and the people of the State of Louisiana, the sportsmen, I certainly appreciate Mr. Norval Rhodes' diligence and cooperation in law enforcement in Terrebonne Parish in the Judicial District that he represents. You know, it has been real, real great.

However, for the benefit of the press, I think it would be proper that I ask Chief Gillespie, maybe for Mr. Rhodes' information and that of the sportsmen of the state, to respond,



even though I can, since it is division and his responsibility that he respond to the requests. When we are talking about new equipment, what has happened, and it is impossible, and Mr. Rhodes knows this, for him to come to a meeting and ask and hope that by next week this equipment is going to float out there in Terrebonne Parish. It doesn't happen that way.

THE CHAIRMAN: Now you are fixing to get the saddest story ever told! (Laughter)

CHIEF GILLESPIE: No, I am not going to give you a sad story. On the truck that was wrecked, Mr. Rhodes, and the boat and the trailer, we have collected the money under the insurance claim. We just got it here a couple of weeks ago and all we are waiting on is a contract so we can buy a new boat. We will buy a new boat, we have got one on order right now. We are waiting on the contract on the vehicle and just as soon as we get a contract we will buy a new truck for Agent Guidry.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is the reason you haven't got the new truck.



DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Let me explain this a little bit further. You are talking about waiting on a contract. We are talking about waiting for the new car introduction, which is all set for around October 1, General Motors, Chrysler and Ford Motor Company. Ford will probably be out because they are on strike. We are looking at the Division of Administration, not Wild Life and Fisheries, the Division of Administration receiving and negotiating a contract to buy vehicles, to buy for Wild Life and Fisheries.

What is going to happen and what has happened in the past -- in fact, we are still receiving units that have been approved a year and a half ago -- so what we are saying, Mr. Rhodes, is that these units that we are asking for now, which will be negotiated after October 1 by the Division, and by the time they are advertised and by the time we put in an order and get these vehicles, I am looking for April and May before we can get a unit in replacing some of these units because of the time delay there is involved, and I don't think I could do any better.



It is just what Mr. Doyle here is raising here.

MR. RHODES: Is there no way to declare an emergency in a situation like this when you have the advent of the hunting season?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Every morning we wake up in an emergency in Wild Life and Fisheries, Norval! You know, we try to declare one every morning but they don't want to listen to us. This happens nearly on a weekly and a monthly basis. I am not talking about just this particular one we are using as an example now, but this happens in many cases.

While I have got the floor here and the press is there, we have got units -- and I have made this observation to the budget committee and to the committee on finance last legislative session -- we have got units right now with 75, 80, 90 and 100,000 miles that we have to spend \$900 and \$1200 to keep them running until we can get some new units in this department. This applies not only to Wild Life and Fisheries; this is across the board. There are probably some other state agencies also that are experiencing



that type of this kind of stuff.

MR. RHODES: Unfortunately the poachers don't require all that red tape; they just go out and get what they want.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: And a silencer, and we realize this and we know this and we have to work under those conditions. I have asked if there is any way some of this stuff could be cut and shorten the time that we need to get some vehicles and what you get is some more of the same.

MR. JONES: I am going to have to get you a bigger roll of that, Burt! You don't have enough there! (Laughter)

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rhodes, I will say this, for your edification, that we have had a couple of the pollution people working down in Terrebonne Parish in the western side of it who have given your other agents some assistance down there. We have had them there a good bit the last couple of years and they are continuing to go in there.

MR. RHODES: As you know, Doyle, I think last year Tommy (?) came down and we had three or



four agents that were working in conjunction with the Terrebonne agents and we did a lot of good, we had a lot of convictions. I think we have cut down the violations to a fraction of what they had been in the past.

THE CHAIRMAN: You are running them back into St. Mary's!

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: He displaced them!

MR. RHODES: Gentlemen, is there any possibility that the Commission could lease something on a temporary basis? Joe Burris just wouldn't hear to my buying a boat for the Wild Life and Fisheries. I would have bought it because I have the funds available but, you know, he kind of frowned when I bought the CB's and the night light, but he got up on all fours when I was talking about getting the boat.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Well, we need some help, Mr. Rhodes, when we make our pitch to the budget committee, when you wind up and deliver that pitch at the budget committee hearings during the legislative session, and to the appropriations committee. This is where, you know, the deal is





done. As far as all the other red tape that has got to be cut, we will take all the shortcuts that we possibly can, but there are just certain things we can and cannot do. It just doesn't operate and you know, being in state government, you don't handle it on your own as a private business, you know, where you can just make a decision overnight and get it done the next day. It just doesn't work that way.

I get really nervous about these things but people call you and they tell you the same thing. They tell you and you call me and we talk about it and hopefully these things will go away, but they don't. They just come back.

You have got our full assurance and dedication in enforcement and the staff and Commission employees to do the best we can with what we have, and under those conditions we rededicate ourselves to that end.

THE CHAIRMAN: How do you like that for a sad story?

MR. WILLE: Burt, is there any possibility of, say, the next replacement vehicle that



comes in, not turning in a vehicle and giving him a vehicle?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Not do what?

MR. WILLE: In other words, the next replacement vehicle that comes in for a vehicle to be turned in, is there any possibility of accepting the new vehicle and not turning in the old vehicle and let the man keep it and just shovel it over to that man?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Well, No. 1, you have got to get permission to do that from the Division of Administration. It is being done. We keep the better vehicles for, you know, another 10 or 15,000 miles where they are not being used as heavily as they are used, you know, with an enforcement agent, and we do keep them. But, however, you have got to keep a running tab on it and you are allowed so many vehicles by budget and appropriations and you have got a line item budget approval and you have to stay within those boundaries.

MR. WILLE: Well, I am just saying that would cut some red tape, wouldn't it, if you could



do that?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: No, it just gives a man a vehicle for a few days.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Jones wants to say something down there.

MR. JONES: I have a question for Mr. Rhodes, and that is, does your parish have a system whereby a misdemeanor violator, a wildlife violator, let's say a guy fishing without a license, can do like they do with traffic offenses, where he can go in and sign a guilty plea and pay his fine? Do you all have a system like that for wildlife violations? Or do they have to appear in court?

MR. RHODES: All wildlife violations in Terrebonne Parish I think by statute, as my memory serves me, have to appear in court.

MR. JONES: What I was interested in, we have talked in this department about possibly some legislation for the minor violations where they could handle them like you do a lot of the traffic offenses, by just signing the guilty plea and paying your fine. Would you be in favor of such



legislation?

MR. RHODES: As long as it didn't involve game violations. I think that I like to have a man appear before a court. Just recently we had an alligator conviction in the parish that netted some \$1,000 worth of fines.

MR. JONES: I am talking about the real minor type thing, such as license violations.

MR. RHODES: Certainly that would be advantageous to us from a forfeiture standpoint, as we do traffic. It would facilitate the movement of these things a lot faster than they do now because quite often the people that are cited are from out of parish. They come down to Houma to fish, you know, around the islands and what have you, and they are required to have to come back. They will ask if they can forfeit and sometimes the judges will let them do it and sometimes if they are in a bad mood they won't.

MR. JONES: It appears to me that most people want to pay their fines for that type of violation and the more convenient we can make it for them, the better off everybody will be and



they will have more respect for the law.

I just wondered what your position was.

MR. RHODES: I would just like to see something, gentlemen, because the agents that work in Terrebonne, and Doyle can tell you, the convictions we got last year, just in monies; we had no less than a dozen people give us thirty days under these mandatory sentences. I would venture to say, a rough guess, we collected in excess of \$25,000 worth of fines in Terrebonne Parish alone. I had two men that donated I think \$1,200 for killing a couple of deer off a tug boat.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: This fine money is great but remember one thing, it doesn't come to Wild Life and Fisheries. We don't get one penny of the fine money. Whatever you are doing in helping us, it is in gratitude and you are great-hearted and we appreciate it. But to set the record straight, Wild Life and Fisheries doesn't get one dime of the fine and forfeiture money.

MR. RHODES: I would have no objection, gentlemen, if the legislature would see fit to earmark that money for reinvestment in the Wild



Life and Fisheries.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: I will support that bill if your legislators produce it!

MR. RHODES: We have just about cleaned out Randolph LeBauve and the crab fishermen are going to start warring this year, so I have got my hands full. I just need a little help from you all. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Norval.

We have Mr. Don Cooper representing the Louisiana Bird and Quail Hunters Association of Baton Rouge.

FROM THE FLOOR: Jack Searles will speak for the Louisiana Bird and Quail Hunters.

THE CHAIRMAN: Will you come up to the podium, state your name and who you represent, please, sir.

MR. JACK SEARLES: I am Jack Searles and I am representing the Louisiana Wildlife Federation as well as the Louisiana Quail Hunters and Upland Game Association.

We had a meeting in Alexandria two weeks ago, the Louisiana Quail Hunters and Upland Game



Association. They asked that a committee appear before you to ask that we try in some way to find some land for upland game.

From a personal standpoint and from the Louisiana Wildlife Federation standpoint, we would prefer that it be in the central part of the state, the first buy. That way it would be accessible to the entire state because of a travel distance thing.

Now the southeastern part of the state, they have a real quail problem down there, from what I understand, and driving through the area coming down here this morning, I noticed that farming practices are such that it would be awfully hard to develop some of these areas. Cattle have got it grazed so low that I can see why they have a quail depletion problem.

However, if there was some way that they could get some land purchased in that area, a few thousand acres, somehow, then these people would at least have some place to go. Maybe not kill a lot of quail but they would have a place to run their dogs.

Of course, now, the Louisiana Wildlife



Federation is looking at the upland game thing in a much different light. We are thinking about squirrel, deer, turkey, quail. We are thinking about a multiple use area, a place that maybe -- there has been a lot of talk about field trials and a lot of states have special field trial areas for men who field trial, and I am a field trialer, to go run their dogs. But in Louisiana, we are looking at 37,000 bird hunters in the state of Louisiana, and we are looking at a minority of field trialers.

What we would like is to have an area developed, if it is purchasable, to where it could be used for field trial purposes, not only for quail but for retrievers, beagles, coon hunters, the whole works, someday to try to make everybody happy on this situation.

Now it seems that the problem, from talking to Tommy Prickett and Mr. Wills and different things, the state doesn't want to buy, spend the money, even though that the land may be appraised at a higher price, they have got to go -- I think something like \$150 has been what you





have been paying on the average for land, but the upland land that you have been looking at has been around \$450 to \$500 an acre, even though it will appraise for that. I don't believe we are going to find piney woods land or soybean land for any \$150 an acre.

I remember when the \$5 license fee increase came, we were called upon to appear before you and before the legislature, rather, in committee, and really try to support this \$5 license fee. At that time we were promised 25 percent of the fees to go to upland land purchase. This was never legislated. However, 10 percent has been, I understand, legislated for upland game and quail propagation purposes.

Of course, that was sort of a letdown, when you get up before a committee and everybody says we are going to give you 25 percent of this, and you don't ever get it, you know, you don't ever see it. But we have come a long way. We have 19 parishes now that have a good program going and we have several wildlife refuges that have an upland game program on them besides deer



and ducks, and we wish to thank the Commission for the effort. They have done a wonderful job.

But the Commission alone I know can't get it all done. If the Commission would show us, help show us the way in the way that they think of it, then we would see to it that they would get the necessary publicity in the newspapers, the magazines and what-have-you, to help get this program going. We need land. We want land, and we are asking that you pay more than \$150 a acre for it, which looks like you are going to have to do.

MR. WILLE: You are aware, not by our rules and regulations set forth by the Commission but by state law, we cannot pay more than the appraised value.

MR. SEARLES: Yes, sir, but we have found lands that you could buy at the appraised price. In fact, there was some north of Iowa that I understood that they would sell at the appraised price, but the appraised price was \$500 an acre, and the state didn't want to pay over \$150.

MR. WILLE: Well, no, that's not true



because we have paid more than \$150 an acre in instances, is that right, Burt? We have, and I think you will find if you check back on this land you will find that it was higher than the appraised price. We have no control over that. The only thing that we can pay is the appraised price. If the landowners says I want \$200 more per acre than the appraised price, it may be worth it to an individual to go in there and buy it at \$200 more, but our hands are tied. This is the only thing that we can do.

THE CHAIRMAN: Let me say this --

MR. SEARLES: May I say this? Mr. Bill Clark, one of the owners of this particular property, called me the other night and he left me with the impression --

THE CHAIRMAN: Which property is that?

MR. SEARLES: The Lac Perret land north of Iowa, Louisiana. I just use this as an example. I didn't bring the list, but we have got a list a mile long of turndowns on this. You see, what they did, originally you all asked us to go find the lands. Well, we went and found lands but



every time we found land, somehow or another, well, one deal there was no appraisal made on it, just an opinion. I think Tommy and I got into that pretty good about that at my house one day, about this opinion business. What we wanted was an actual appraisal on the land.

MR. JONES: I have a question.

MR. SEARLES: Yes, sir.

MR. JONES: To get your request in proper perspective, are you asking that we buy land to do quail research on or land to do quail hunting on?

MR. SEARLES: No, we are not asking for land strictly for quail hunting, no, sir. We are asking for land -- I think it ought to be multiple use land that people can go and use. If you have a food plot situation there where you can hunt dove, yes. And you might have limited hunting.

MR. JONES: No, what I am asking is, are you -- for example, are you asking we buy a tract of land and we develop that so that people can go hunt quail on it, or that we develop that for research by our biologists?



MR. SEARLES: I think the primary purpose should be research purposes. That is my personal thinking. I can't speak for the Louisiana Quail Hunters and Upland Game Association. At the meetings that I have attended, what they was wanting primarily was land that would be multiple purpose for the public, it would be used by the public.

MR. JONES: But you talk about hunting land?

MR. SEARLES: Yes, if you can buy hunting land, it is good.

THE CHAIRMAN: Let me inject, sir, this at this time. I know I discussed with Mr. Wills yesterday and some of the staff that they have investigated about 11 areas in the last year's time for quail development, and either because of price and not necessarily price but maybe because of location and the size of the property and the shape of the property, these 11 places were found to be unfeasible, not feasible for what we want to do in this particular area.

MR. SEARLES: Mr. Berry, are you a quail



hunter?

THE CHAIRMAN: I have quail hunted.

MR. SEARLES: No, I mean are you an avid quail hunter?

THE CHAIRMAN: No, sir.

MR. JONES: But what I want to get in proper perspective --

MR. SEARLES: What I am trying to say is --

MR. JONES: I am not criticizing but --

MR. SEARLES: What I am trying to say is a quail hunter should know what it takes to kill quail.

MR. JONES: I am going to ask one of the biologists to come up and respond to what you are saying as to why, what we have been doing, but I wanted to get the matter in proper perspective before he comes up. I wasn't being critical of you, Jack.

MR. SEARLES: Well, I want him to come up. Tommy and I have worked together on this very extensively. In fact, Friday he and I are going to be getting together with some people at Bell



Lumber Company to do some more quail work, get some quail work done on some of their land.

Look, no one is criticizing you. I mean we know the problem you have had, but somehow or other, some way, we ought to be able to find some land. Look, it's not just for quail hunters. We keep hollering quail. I am talking about turkey. I am talking about squirrel. We are losing our hardwoods. I am going squirrel hunting next Saturday but it is just because I happen to belong to a lease and I will have a good place to hunt.

We have got children coming on. I was told a minute ago the reason you turned down the Lac Perret land was -- I was told that yesterday by Tommy -- that the biggest reason the Lac Perret land wasn't bought was because it would take too long to develop it into a multiple use purpose.

Look, I am not worried about me, I have had my day, but we have got some children coming along.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Who turned that property down?

MR. SEARLES: I don't know. We got a



letter saying it was turned down.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Are you making the statement that the Commission turned it down?

MR. SEARLES: We got a letter stating --

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: It wasn't turned down; it was never brought up to this Commission for consideration.

MR. SEARLES: Tommy, have you got the sheet? Where's Tommy?

THE CHAIRMAN: I have listened to you now for 15 minutes and I appreciate what you said and I appreciate the comments about the Commission but I fail just to pinpoint what you are trying to say. Would you put that in a few words?

MR. SEARLES: I ask one more time that you buy land.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir.

MR. SEARLES: We are doing everything we can to try to get land bought.

THE CHAIRMAN: We are doing what we can, believe me.

MR. SEARLES: The Commission came to us and asked us to find land. We got four sheetfuls





that is listed that we found, but it has all been turned down. Now the Lac Perret stuff on that sheet, it says, it tells why it was turned down.

MR. JONES: Dewey, come up there and let's talk.

THE CHAIRMAN: It wasn't turned down by this Commission, I can tell you that.

MR. LUTTRELL: Let Dewey tell you about the reason why it was turned down.

MR. WILLE: Just a minute. Mr. Searles.

MR. SEARLES: Yes.

MR. WILLE: I just want you to realize that the Commission last year purchased between 25 and 30,000 acres of land. I mean we are constantly buying land.

MR. SEARLES: That is bottomlands, right?

MR. WILLE: No, a combination of lands but we try to buy what is readily available and try to get the most for the money that we can, and if we don't continue to purchase land, you know what is going to happen. You are talking about the future for your children. If we don't continue to purchase land -- if I am not mistaken,



Dick, don't we have close to a million acres now of land?

MR. YANCEY: Yes, total.

MR. WILLE: Total of a million acres on lease and purchase throughout the state. If we didn't do this there wouldn't be any public lands for hunting. I mean everything would be private lease and no one would have a chance to hunt.

THE CHAIRMAN: On the other hand, if we buy up too much land, nobody is going to pay taxes, either.

MR. SEARLES: No, we appreciate all this. There is no one criticism.

MR. WILLE: I mean I just want you to know that the Commission really has got the future at stake. We feel like we are doing something for the future of our children, too.

MR. SEARLES: How many places are we doing to have where a child can go quail hunting if he has a bird dog? We are running into a situation where --

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Yancey, do you want --



MR. WILLE: Dick, do you want to talk about this?

MR. YANCEY: Let me just say this. We are together with them in what they want to do. It is just that up until this point the right piece of property has not turned up. We are going to pursue this thing with vigor and we are going to check out every recommendation that is made to us, and as soon as we come with the right piece of property that meets all the requirements, I think we should proceed to buy it.

We do expect an appropriation to be made in the October session of the legislature that will provide money for land purchase, and I think we should give this priority. I think just what he is asking for we should proceed with. We set out in two directions in getting this quail program under way. One was a habitat development program on existing Commission lands and on private lands that are open to the public. Tommy Prickett is the prime mover behind this, and maybe you would want to hear a little report on what he has done the past year.



Then the other direction we set out in is to try to acquire this 3,000-acre area or something along this line that would lend itself to getting out here and doing some experimental work with quail and upland game birds that would provide information that could be used by other people who want to improve their lands for this work. But the price has been high in these upland areas. For some reason or other, the price in the uplands runs about three times higher than it does in the lowlands where we have been concentrating our land acquisition program.

Secondly, a lot of these leads that we have followed out on lands that have been offered for this particular purpose that they are interested in have been down in a creek bottom where maybe 75 or 80 percent of that total habitat would not be suitable for quail. The size, the configuration, the topography, the price, nothing has jelled up until this point, but the leads have been checked out and they are going to continue to be checked out, and hopefully we will be able to do something this fiscal year with what



they want to do.

There is no disagreement with them about what they want to do.

THE CHAIRMAN: I would like for Mr. Wills to come forward at this time, with your presentation, and show them just exactly what we have looked at in the last 12 months or so.

MR. WILLE: Doyle, I would like to say just one thing in support of what Dick has just said, that the fiscal responsibility is of the Commission. It is the hunters' and fishermen's money and tax money that we are spending and we are trying to get, we are constantly working toward this goal, but we are trying to show the responsibility in the purchase of the land, to try to shop it around and get the best buy that we can for the money that we can and the best results that we can. Am I not right?

O. K., Dewey.

MR. LAPEYRE: Can I ask this? Is there agreement between the Commission staff and the hunter groups interested in this quail land as to what the goals of a feasible program would be and



what criteria you set on the property that you would eventually buy?

MR. YANCEY: I think there is general agreement on what the goals should be. Now, within the quail hunter groups around the state, some of them are a little bit more interested in field trials, say, than other groups are, but generally speaking I think everybody is together on the need for proceeding with the acquisition of some of this land that we can do this work on.

We are in agreement with them. We think that we should proceed with it. It is just the fact that we have got to come up with the right piece of property before we move ahead with it. We don't want to buy something that wouldn't be suitable, spend a lot of money for something that wouldn't be suitable.

MR. LAPEYRE: But there is agreement as to what is a suitable piece of property?

MR. YANCEY: Well, obviously Jack is a little bit disappointed in one of these not being acquired, or maybe some others are disappointed in one or two of these tracts that should have been



acquired. Perhaps they feel that maybe one or two of them should have and our people didn't necessarily agree with that. Maybe we are looking at the requirements a little bit more stringently than they are.

I hope that we will be able to overcome this thing this fiscal year.

MR. WILLE: Did we reject this particular piece of land by letter, return letter? The Commission did?

MR. WILLS: I can handle this particular piece of property, but let me give you a complete resume and I will end up with this particular piece of property, if I may.

Let me give you a complete resume with reference to our land acquisition program as it relates to finding a quail area. I know it must be frustrating to the quail hunters in the past but we have worked with them as closely as possible, but when they bring us a piece of property or we hear about a piece of property, we go out there and evaluate it from the habitat standpoint and look at it from all the requirements that we



feel are necessary to make a quail area.

Now lots of times maybe we are at fault by not getting back with these people and selling them on the fact or informing them on the factors why we turned this particular piece of property down. This is probably where we are at fault.

But, during the past two years, we have checked 11 different tracts out thoroughly to determine if they would be feasible quail development areas. These tracts are located throughout the various parts of the state of Louisiana. All the tracts that we investigated had some limiting factors that we felt precluded us from making a sizable investment in land acquisition to develop them into a quail area. These factors might have been the size. Some of them were irregular in shape. It might be 2,000 acres but they might be three different tracts not contiguous, a quarter of a mile wide, four miles long. Some of them the limiting factor would be that one company wanted to sell an area that was almost in the city limits of Winfield, had restrictions that would have restricted the use of the area.





Another area in Tangipahoa Parish, 2,500 acres, they wanted to retain the minerals, which was all right, but they wanted also to retain all the timber, which could have resulted in a clear-cut area.

We had some others we checked. Mrs. Nelson's property up in West Feliciana, one tract would have been suitable, but the guy said I want \$800 an acre, and don't talk to me if you don't. We checked another area up there that Mrs. Nelson informed us of, but it had restrictions on it and we couldn't get a clear title. We never could pursue that any further.

These are the things that we run into. On the Perret property we had a habitat evaluation on it. One of the limiting factors that was brought out, it would take quite a bit of monetary development on a long range basis to bring this back into a real quail area. It does have quail on it, but to really develop it -- plus another limiting factor was that the man wanted a certain amount, he wanted X number of dollars as down payment, and he wanted deferred payments over a three-year



period, which we cannot enter into any kind of agreement such as this. .

These are the limiting factors that we get into that preclude us from really buying an area, but I will assure you that we are very much interested in trying to find an area and we are going to continue our efforts. We have worked with Mr. Searles and some of the other members, and we have lowered our criteria, you know, in sizes. We used to look at nothing but 5,000-acre areas. Now we are looking at 2,000-acre areas. We have had to change. But I want to assure the quail hunters of Louisiana that we are going to continue our efforts and try to find an area that would be suitable for quail development, but we have to make sure that we have a real good bill of sale and all of these limiting factors are eliminated.

THE CHAIRMAN: Dewey, let me say this. I think I can speak for the Commission when I say it. We are all interested in getting some quail land. There is no question, we have talked about it numerous times. But I want to caution you not



to let pressure push you into recommending a piece of land to this Commission that you don't think is the proper piece of land and the piece we need to go forward with in the proper manner.

MR. WILLS: Well, these are the reasons that some of these pieces of property have never been brought to your attention, because we feel it is our responsibility as the staff not to bring you a piece of property at \$800 an acre.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: And the door is not closed for continued negotiations --

MR. WILLS: No, sir.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: -- with the very, very people that we have discussed this with.

MR. WILLS: That is correct, and we will continue every effort through this coming fiscal year.

MR. WILLE: Jack, did you want to say something else?

MR. SEARLES: I think enough has been said.

MR. DUPUY: I would like to hear from Dick another moment.



MR. YANCEY: Just for the benefit of the Commission, I would like for Tommy Prickett to take about three minutes and resume' for you what he has done in this program. I think he has done an outstanding job. He has met with the quail hunter groups around the state numerous times and he has also had a very active program of habitat development, and we are getting into research and all this kind of stuff.

I want to say we certainly understand the frustrations of these groups here because quail populations have declined in Louisiana and are continuing to decline, and they want something done about it and I think we should help where we can, but I would like for Tommy to give you about a three-minute rundown.

THE CHAIRMAN: I want to ask you question before you speak: Have you got a good quail dog?

MR. TOMMY PRICKETT: Yes, sir, that's debatable!

THE CHAIRMAN: You do have a quail dog, though?



MR. PRICKETT: I have got a bunch of them but as to whether they are any good or not, we would have to thresh that out!

THE CHAIRMAN: I wouldn't want a man working on this project that didn't have a quail dog!

MR. PRICKETT: I have got two or three but, like I said, you get five bird hunters together and you are going to get a fight over who has got the best dog any time.

We have implemented this quail program and I think we have made quite a few advancements. There are a lot more things that we do want to do and the land acquisition aspect of it is one of them. As Mr. Yancey and Dewey Wills indicated, we are looking and Mr. Angelle said the door is still open, and that is good because we do need a quail area.

The areas in this state where bird hunters can hunt are numerous but ideal quail habitat is not, and we would like to have a place where we could develop the best possible quail habitat, use it as a demonstration area for research



and quail hunting on a limited basis, maybe field trials, and try to make the most possible people happy at one time.

As far as what we have done this year, we have done quite a bit of work on private lands owned by timber companies that are open to public hunting. We have signed lease agreements with International Paper Company just last week to do work on 11,500 acres of their land in St. Helena Parish, and we have also got an agreement with Crown Zellerbach Corporation, where we have been doing work on their land for the last year and a half. In Washington Parish, St. Helena, St. Francisville -- no, not in St. Francisville, in Beauregard and Vernon Parishes also, I am sorry. I am a little bit nervous; I am not used to talking in front of a crowd!

THE CHAIRMAN: Tommy, how old is your quail program now, how long have you been involved in this quail program?

MR. PRICKETT: I have been there one year this month.

THE CHAIRMAN: You would have thought it



it had been going twenty years, from the things I have been hearing said this morning.

MR. PRICKETT: Well, last fall we implemented a quail and woodcock hunter survey also, and that will be continued this year. The success of it was rather disappointing, but we need better participation and I think we will get it this year. We have contacted more bird hunters and as the people become accustomed to us and we get used to them, I think this thing will work out a lot better.

We are operating an extension service which offers assistance to landowners who are interested in developing better quail habitat on their lands, and at the present time we have got roughly 18,000 acres that we have not actually done work on, but giving technical assistance for the landowner, to do quail work on his land. I think that aspect will also help. That is a lot of acres for one year, and I think this thing is going to continue to expand in the future.

As far as what we have actually planted on the ground, I will give you a brief rundown



of that. A considerable amount of our work has been done on wildlife management areas. They are not being neglected from a quail standpoint. I know a lot of people think that our wildlife management areas are managed primarily for deer and turkey, but that is not true. There is a lot of fine quail hunting on our wildlife management areas.

We have planted in the last year roughly 140,000 lespedeza bi-color plants and put about 500 pounds of lespedeza japonica and cold lespedeza seed, and we have seeded the annuals, primarily brown-top millet, on about 870 acres and we have fallowed this, about 170 acres, and we have fenced 75 approximately one-half acre food plots and we have planted these to common lespedeza and brown-top millet. These along with other things.

We have control-burned roughly 31,000 acres, which is also beneficial to quail, and this is just a small part of what we have done. There is considerably more than has been done that I am not going to go into.

One of the other things that we are





quite proud of, we haven't acquired a piece of quail property yet but we have gotten a 4,000-acre quail development area on Fort Polk Wildlife Management Area, which will be intensely managed for quail, where field trialers and bird hunters and hopefully in the future the coon trialers and the hound men can also have a place to run their dogs. There is a field trial scheduled there November 5, 6 and 7 of this year, and we hope it will be a great success.

THE CHAIRMAN: It seems to me like you have done a good job and have got it all together and I for one and I think I can speak for the Commission appreciate the effort you have put forward in this program in the last year's time, and I am going to ask you to keep up the good work.

MR. PRICKETT: I thank you, Mr. Berry.

Does anyone have any questions?

MR. DUPUY: I just have an observation, Mr. Chairman, that all the discussion here has indicated that a whole lot of work has been done. Our program and our policy of this Commission has been for at least two years or more an intensive



effort to find suitable lands with the limitations that we have been faced with and in addition to the finding of the lands, the development of lands which we already own. Most of the quail hunters need to and in fact already know that we are continuing in our efforts. This is not a new program, it is not something that is for the future but it is something that has been in the past two years and of course will continue.

It is not a fair comment to say that nothing has been done because no land has been bought. I think that the sportsmen need to realize that a great deal of progress has been made in the direction of propagation of quail and upland game.

MR. PRICKETT: I think the sportsmen are quite aware of this. They are just concerned and they would like to see some upland game land purchased. That is not to say they are displeased with the project. I think, from talking to most of them, they are quite pleased, and they appreciate the work we are doing and they would just like to see us acquire an upland game area which



would also benefit them and the other sportsmen of the state.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Searles, I want to say that I appreciate your appearing here this morning. We appreciate your interest in the quail program. You keep the heat on these bureaucrats, keep them heated up, and they will get something done eventually. Don't let up on them!

MR. SEARLES: Mr. Berry, I would just like to make the comment that in no way have we ever pressured these people into buying any land.

THE CHAIRMAN: I can't believe that!

(Laughter)

MR. SEARLES: We have always been interested but now I will assure you that if we don't get some land, the pressure will be applied somehow.

THE CHAIRMAN: Keep the heat on the pants, they will keep moving! Keep after them!

MR. PRICKETT: One more word. I would like to say that this is going to be the best quail year we have had in quite some time. We got a little help from the man upstairs in the form of



some good weather this year. We are going to have a real fine quail season I hope this year.

MRS. SEARLES: Amen!

THE CHAIRMAN: Would you like to come forward? There is a lady wants to be heard from here.

MRS. BARBARA NELSON: Mr. Berry, I think I have a real good bird dog. He won first in the State of Louisiana. But I don't know, because my dog has found five covies of wild birds and he is five years old. That's all he has ever found.

But I live in West Feliciana and we don't have five covies of wild birds in West Feliciana.

THE CHAIRMAN: Excuse me, would you give us your name, please, ma'am.

MRS. NELSON: Barbara Nelson. Here is the map of your wildlife management areas (displaying map). I wasn't as smart as Mr. Wills, I didn't put cardboard on it.

It looks real good with all this red, that's the wildlife management areas. But what about these people who live down here (indicating)?

THE CHAIRMAN: I happen to live down



there, I know what you are talking about.

MRS. NELSON: Well, I live over here (indicating on map), and my poor dog, I don't know if he knows how to point wild birds and handle them or not. He just won first in the State. Now that's pathetic. But I can't take off and go to Fort Polk for a weekend. My husband doesn't hunt. You all got to give me a place to hunt. I have got to go and come back in one day.

THE CHAIRMAN: You might better find you a husband who hunts!

(Laughter)

MRS. NELSON: I should have thought of that earlier! I have some acquaintances, they are not even good friends, that live down in Morgan City.

THE CHAIRMAN: That's where I live.

MRS. NELSON: Well, these people, there are three of them, three groups of them, and they come up to West Feliciana. From here -- I don't know where Morgan City is, I know where I live; I live over here at the state line. That's a



long way. I have a 50-acre field. They come on the weekend and bring their dogs and train them on pigeons. Why do they have to come that far to find a 50-acre field to work a bird dog on a pigeon? I don't have any wild birds up there. That's a long way.

MR. THOMPSON: They must like your company!

MRS. NELSON: No, sir, I don't go with them. But what I am saying is we need to find some land for these bird hunters that live in the southern part of the state. They are paying their \$5 license fee, too, and these are the people that went to bat for you all to get that \$5 hunting license. You know it, because we were there. They didn't have a meeting that I wasn't there and I didn't talk in the legislature, and I wasn't the only bird hunter. There were a bunch of us.

I would like to point out also that since the beginning of the land acquisition program, the thinking of that time was that the hardwood bottomland was disappearing and we have got to save it, and we all go along with that. I mean



we are not so narrow-minded we can't see other aspects of hunting also. But that is the only thing that has ever been purchased, and we feel like that the kind of land that we are looking for is now endangered also, because say 15 years ago in my parish, there were over a dozen plantations that were 3,000 acres up. Now there are two, and one of those is Angola.

So, these large tracts of land are disappearing. Everything is being split up.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have got a lot of birds at Angola!

(Laughter)

MRS. NELSON: Well, just anybody can't hunt on Angola right now! But if we don't find something, the whole world is going to be in 40-acre tracts. Also, the land is increasing in value just fantastically every year. If you can't afford it now, five years from now for sure you are not going to be able to afford it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, ma'am. We appreciate your appearing with us this morning. We appreciate your concern.



I would like to set the October meeting for the 11th and 12th of October. We have some conflicts toward the last part of the month, so therefore it is necessary to set it early next month, which is only a few weeks ago.

On Item 12, which is the last item on the agenda, we have adoption of rules and procedures to conduct hearing.

MR. THOMPSON: You can't do that until next month, can you?

THE CHAIRMAN: It is not necessary really but because of the criteria required and timewise to set these procedures up, I would entertain a motion that we take this under advisement until next meeting. Excuse me, until the November meeting.

MR. JONES: I will make the motion that he advertise in the Register that we are going to take action at the November meeting.

THE CHAIRMAN: At the November meeting. Mr. Jones, will you put that in the form of a motion with your good legal head?

MR. JONES: Yes, I will put all of that





in the form of a motion, including your comments.

MR. DUPUY: I will second that.

THE CHAIRMAN: The other attorney just seconded it.

MR. WILLE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a motion that we all go home so we can come back to court Friday.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

We stand adjourned.

. . . . Whereupon, at 11:15  
o'clock a.m., Tuesday, September  
28, 1976, the meeting was  
adjourned. . . .

Kathryn G. Chamberlin,  
Reporter.

